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## APRIL 24.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-nine members present.

The following papers were presented for publication :

"On the Structure of the Skull of the Hadrosauridæ," by Edward D. Cope.

"On some Vertebrate Forms from the Permian of Illinois," by Edward D. Cope.

*A Social Heliozoan.*—Prof. LEIDY exhibited drawings and made some remarks on a singular Heliozoan recently observed by him. His attention had been directed to it by Mr. Edward Potts, who discovered it, contained in considerable numbers in water, with vegetal debris, from Lake Hopatcong, N. J., where it had been obtained last autumn. The animal occurred mostly in groups composed of numerous individuals. One of these groups, of irregular, cylindroid shape, 0.84 mm. long by 0.36 mm. broad, was estimated to contain upwards of a hundred individuals. They reminded one of a mass of tangled burs. They remained nearly stationary even for twenty-four hours, and exhibited so little activity, that without careful scrutiny they might readily be taken for some inanimate structure. The individuals composing the groups appeared to be connected together only by mutual attachment of their innumerable rays, and none were observed to be associated by cords of protoplasm extending between the bodies of the animals, as seen in *Raphidiophrys elegans*. The individuals associated together were of two kinds: those which were active, and a smaller proportion which were in an encysted, quiescent condition.

The active individuals resembled the common sun-animalcule. The body was usually spherical or oval, but variable from contraction, colorless, granular and vesicular, with a large central nucleus more or less obscurely visible and variably granular, with three or four or more peripheral contractile vesicles. The body had a thick envelope of delicate protoplasm, with innumerable and immeasurably fine, straight spicules. The envelope with the spicules extended in numerous conical rays, from which proceeded numerous immeasurably fine granular rays. The encysted individuals presented the same essential constitution, except that the body was regularly spherical, enclosed by a structureless envelope or membrane, contained no contractile vesicles, and the enveloping protoplasm was devoid of granular rays. The body of the active individuals measured from 0.024 to 0.036 mm. in diameter; in the encysted individuals, usually about 0.02 mm. An active individual, with the body 0.033 mm. in diameter, with its envelope was 0.055 mm. in diameter. An encysted individual, with the body 0.02, with its envelope was 0.036 mm.

The active individuals were observed to feed on two species of

minute monads, which were swallowed in the same manner as in *Actinophrys*. After some hours, a few individuals appear to have separated from the surface of one of the groups, but they were as stationary and sluggish as when in association with others.

The species is apparently distinct from others which have been previously noticed, and may be named *Raphidiophrys socialis*.

Daniel E. Hughes, M. D., and Edwin S. Balch were elected members.

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MAY 1.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty persons present.

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MAY 8.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-five persons present.

*Canadian Notes.*—Mr. JOS. WILLCOX remarked that a noticeable feature in the Canadian landscape is the scarcity of springs of water and running streams. The latter, when they exist, are almost exclusively the outlets of lakes, which are very numerous in that country. The abundance of lakes there is a fortunate occurrence, as they store a large amount of water for use in supplying power to mills and drink for live stock during the dry summer and early autumn. By the action of the ancient glaciers a large portion of the soil of Canada has been carried away, the underlying rocks being usually near the surface, and in many cases visible above the ground. It is reasonable to conclude that the absence of springs of water is due to the prevailing scarcity of deep soil, the material necessary to soak up a large amount of rain and melting snow, from which springs are supplied, being deficient. His observations were confined to the country which lies north of Kingston and Brockville, in the Province of Ontario. In Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, in New York, small isolated areas of Potsdam sandstone occur, overlying the Laurentian granite and limestone. Sometimes they cover a space of only a few square yards. North of the St. Lawrence River, for a distance of more than one hundred miles, the Laurentian rocks are frequently covered with disconnected patches of calciferous sandstone and Trenton limestone. These remnants undoubtedly indicate the former existence of those rocks of great extent, overlying the Laurentian granite and limestone, the former having been subsequently removed by erosion. The ancient glaciers have probably performed a large share of this work, as their erosive action, which has torn and worn away the granite rocks to a considerable extent, would operate more rapidly on the softer limestones and sandstones.

The following were ordered to be printed:—